

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUNE 9, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

SECOND MEETING OF THE MONTH

PRESENT: Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann and Farina

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Real Estate Negotiations and concluded at 7:05 p.m. Present were Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina, General Manager Shanley, Town Attorney Naab, and Director of Neighborhood Services and Economic Development Pellegrini. No votes were taken.

7. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

8. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

A. Recognition of Volunteers – VITA Site/EITC.

Mayor Spadaccini explained that the goal of the EITC Coalition is to maximize citizen participation and education. Volunteers step forward to help prepare tax returns and ensure that citizens are receiving the largest return possible. Mayor Spadaccini presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Recognition for the valuable contributions made.

B. Acceptance of donation of AEDs from contributions in the name of Fire Chief Rivos.

Chief Bycholski accepted two AEDs in memory of Chief Rivos, who served Manchester for 40 years and had a tremendous personal commitment to the Fire Department. His family wanted his legacy to continue and his spirit will live on with the donation of the two AEDs in his memory. Chief Bycholski thanked the Rivos family for thinking about what the Chief would have wanted in the midst of their grief.

Mayor Spadaccini thanked the Rivos family on behalf of the Board of Directors and the citizens of Manchester. The Chief dedicated his life to public safety.

9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. **ADOPTED** - Actions, May 12, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- B. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, May 12, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- C. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, May 26, 2009 – Policy Briefing Meeting

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

10. OPENING OF MEETING TO ELECTORS OR TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD ON ANY SUBJECT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Aldo Enrico, 57 Bissell Street, commented that the Memorial Day Parade seems to be getting smaller and wondered if more people were away or if people are losing interest. He encouraged people to come up with ideas to bring it back to life. Mr. Enrico mentioned a recent Spruce Street cleanup attended by block watch members, Police Officers, local children, and Director Farina. It was a successful event and he looks forward to future events, including the Ice Cream Social in August.

Joe Hachey, 91 Diane Drive, said that further study needs to be done on the volunteer tax rebate for seniors. There is danger in getting the seniors' hopes up. Mr. Hachey spoke about the PAL boxing program and urged the Board to help with a permanent venue for that program.

Sue O'Connor, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said she was distressed to learn that the Board was considering postponing the third year of the revaluation phase in. It would be unfair and would cause adverse effects to citizens and tax collection efforts. The decision to phase in the revaluation disadvantaged many taxpayers, but few complained because the process was completed thoughtfully. To reconsider will break a promise made to taxpayers; it is not worth the loss of the Town's credibility. In addition, it will cost the Town \$330,000. She is aware that the General Manager and Finance Director object to postponing the phase in and urged Board members to heed their advice.

Dan Moran, Chestnut Street, addressed the Board about the fact that condominium complexes do not receive the same services for the same percentage of taxes that other citizens pay. One particular item that troubles him on tonight's agenda is the water and sewer rate increase. Condo fees were set on information available in March. Now water and sewer rates are going to be increased and condo fees will need to be adjusted. Mr. Moran stated that he has no idea how the new recycling system will be handled at condominium complexes. The property does not warrant a recycling bin for each unit, but a dumpster will incur additional costs in the future. He explained that his complex pays \$20,000 per year for three dumpsters and is reimbursed only \$4,000 by the Town. Condominium complexes pay the same taxes, but do not receive leaf pick up, garbage collection, or bulky waste pickup. He thinks the Town should look into policies for condo complexes.

Dave Dumaine, 86 Tracy Drive, spoke in opposition to the volunteer tax credit for seniors. The timing is flawed and citizens volunteer for their own reward, not for a stipend. He questioned where the money would come from to make up for the tax credit. This year, Town employees made concessions to protect and preserve their jobs and the services they provide and the meal program at the Senior Center was eliminated to save \$30,000. With the money that would be used for the tax credit, the Town would be able to open another pool. Mr. Dumaine believes this proposal should be withdrawn and the Commission for Elderly Services and People with Disabilities should be charged with investigating all programs available to seniors and veterans. As the Chair of the Board of Assessment Appeals, Mr. Dumaine is of the opinion that the Town should go through with phase-in as planned.

Geoff King, 62 Arnott Street, said the proposal for the tax credit for seniors should be presented to the Commission for Elderly Services and People with Disabilities. He opposes the third year phase-in delay. He does not see an overall benefit and the cost could be \$330,000. This is little benefit with too much risk.

Carl Zinsser, 176 Ralph Road, spoke in favor of giving tax relief to the Orford Village Housing Development. The zoning is done, the plans are done, and the project is "shovel ready." The project is in the process of being financed and the bank is waiting to hear what the Town will do regarding taxes. The project will consist of 44 units on Hartford Road, 30 of which will be one bedroom units for ages 62 and over. The remaining units will be 2 bedroom units. Mr. Zinsser volunteered to answer any questions the Board may have about this project.

Susan Shanbaum, 99 Hartford Road, spoke against the tax credit for seniors. It will be difficult to administer, help only a small number of seniors, and has the possibility of being rife with corruption. She wondered why the program did not include people who have lost their jobs and need tax relief. Ms. Shanbaum suggested if the Board has suddenly found \$30,000, it be used to reinstate the senior meal program.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, said that people who come to speak during public comment sincerely care about this Town, yet are criticized and attacked. She said people put a lot of work into the phase in and she would like to see things left alone. Things are getting very political and she suggested the Board members forget whether they are Democrats or Republicans and remember that they are there to represent the taxpayers in Manchester. Ms. Schuetz noted the new rug in the Hearing Room and asked what part of the budget its cost came from. Ms. Schuetz mentioned the upcoming block watch meeting and said she thinks the block watch members are working together better than the Town is.

Mayor Spadaccini said he received a request from the Board of Education that the items which were pulled from consent (Items 3.B.5 and 3.B.7) be addressed early in the meeting and suggested now would be the appropriate time.

Deputy Mayor Peak noted that both items seem to have revenues in excess of what was originally budgeted and asked for an explanation.

Pat Brooks, Assistant to the Superintendent, explained that with new tracking software, Medicaid funding has been easier to track, thus improving reimbursement rates. Medicaid is a Federal Government reimbursement, with 50% going to the State and 50% going to the school district. The Government has increased reimbursement rates, expanded reimbursement to include durable medical equipment, and the Town has gotten better at applying for reimbursement.

Shelly Matfess, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, further explained the new software and its advantages to Board members.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if there are any additional revenues that will be available to offset other expenses in the budget. Ms. Brooks stated that every dollar collected in reimbursement is used to offset what is spent on special education. Mr. Peak asked about out of town tuition.

Ms. Brooks explained that there are slots within our programs that, if used, will reduce the costs to Manchester Public Schools. Projections were created in December based on what was known at that time. We are bringing more and more Manchester students back to avoid tuition costs, but tuition revenue will decrease.

Ms Matfess added that by bringing students back, the District has to expand service offerings. It has expanded offerings for children with autism and more people are needed to help with these students.

Ms. Brooks said that before beginning a program, she develops a break even cost analysis. With the autistic program, it costs \$130,000 for each student that is sent out of District. The program is growing as more Manchester students have special needs.

Deputy Mayor Peak said it seems like there may be an opportunity to develop special educational programming in Manchester. With quality programming in our District, we may be able to provide services to smaller towns. He said that we are getting very close to the end of the fiscal year and he is concerned with where the Board of Education stands for the current year. He is aware that the Board of Education has identified fuel savings and asked where it stands with utility savings and whether it has a sense of savings to be returned to the general fund.

Ms. Brooks said the Board of Education realized \$400,000 net savings for utilities. It is over \$800,000 in the red in special education tuition at this point. If the anticipated reimbursement for Medicaid and special education occurs, it will still be \$200,000 in the negative in the special education tuition. She listed several financial burdens the BOE is facing, including a shortage of vehicles, a server room that overheats, Head Start, and network problems at MHS.

Deputy Mayor Peak confirmed that assuming the expected revenue is received, the BOE will be returning \$383,000 to the general fund. That figure is very close to what the BOE needed to find. He said it is helpful to know everyone is doing their best to save money. He thinks the two Boards should have more conversations. He is interested to know how the stimulus money will be used and would like to talk about the way the budget book is structured.

Ms. Brooks explained that stimulus money can only be used for IDEA, which is special education and Title I schools. All budgets have to be posted online.

Ms. Matfess added that the stimulus money has very specific goals and can only be used for new programming.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked when the final class size numbers will be publicized. Ms. Brooks said they are currently in draft form. Letters have to be sent to those who are losing their positions. The class sizes will be within the BOE policy range.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

Director Zingler mentioned a communication regarding the meeting Mr. Weedon addressed during Public Comment, an e-mail regarding the High Ledge development, and information regarding a retirement ceremony for Chief Berry.

Secretary Pelletier mentioned a recent public forum on environmental concerns and communication she had with the Council Chair regarding the insufficient resources. She thanked him for his comments and will pass them on to Governor Rell.

Deputy Mayor Peak mentioned a letter General Manager Shanley sent to the State DOT regarding the Buckland Area study and the Bryan Farms neighborhood. He requested that a copy of the letter be sent to Mr. Cunningham. He mentioned a communication from Forest Ridge Condominiums regarding a property on Lydall Street with a number of cars on the lawn. Action is being taken to clean up this property.

Mayor Spadaccini received a note from Carl Wagner, Council on Environmental Quality, thanking the Town for the use of its facilities and for the participation of the community. He received a communication about a Linwood Drive property overgrown with grass. The property owner is deceased and the bank is in the process of foreclosing. Mr. Spadaccini spoke to the Building Department regarding this property. He attended a CT Association of Municipal Attorneys Association meeting recently and one of the topics was how to combat blight. He would ask that the Problem Property Task Force investigate adding an amendment that would allow for the Town to enter a property to address a problem and then bill the property owner.

12. REPORTS.

A. VITA site services (Mary Roche Cronin).

Mary Roche Cronin, Director of Human Services, reported that the VITA site began its second year of operation on the first Saturday in February and ran through April 15, 2009, being open every Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10-4. The VITA site is part of a three year plan to educate the community about EITC, which many people do not claim. Another initiative of EITC includes educating the community. Three programs have run so far,

with the next event being “Beating the Recession Blues” on June 27, 2009. The VITA site received a donation from Walmart and the United Way that enabled purchase of a laptop, allowing for three tax preparers to work instead of the two preparers scheduled for the past two years. This year Human Services instituted two surveys, one to collect data used in conjunction with the CDBG grant and one was a customer satisfaction survey.

Ms. Roche Cronin reported that 127 people were served, with 49.6% being head of household, 87.4% fit CDBG’s definition of low to moderate income, and 26.8% are at or below Federal poverty guidelines. This year, 28 out of the 127 were eligible for EITC, compared with 20 last year. The customer satisfaction survey revealed 100% satisfaction with the program. The average rate of returns denied for corrections is 12%; Manchester’s VITA site was 6%. She credited Mike Klug, the site coordinator and LaResse Harvey, an intern from St. Joseph’s for the reporting.

Mayor Spadaccini thanked Ms. Roche Cronin for the great job with the VITA site and thanked the dedicated, knowledgeable volunteers.

Director Zingler has served on the EITC Coalition since its inception and said it has been great working with the Human Services Department. The EITC Coalition consists of a lot of businesses coming together to help people in our community. He commended everyone involved.

Director O’Neill asked if there is anything people can do to better prepare for tax time and if there is anything that can be done to improve the program for next year. Ms. Roche Cronin answered that even with all of the publicity, people are still coming in without all of their paperwork. Holding onto paperwork would probably be the best suggestion. The EITC Coalition is in the process of putting together a concrete marketing plan for next year.

B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Application.

General Manager Shanley reminded Board members of discussions held about a block grant for \$530,000 that Manchester was awarded through stimulus funds. The application is due this month. He has received the detailed energy audit and has some recommendations to receive the highest payback using the grant money.

Brian Wolverton, Management Analyst, explained that the recommendations made are to maximize the grant funds. He reviewed the recommendations as outlined in his memorandum of June 9, 2009 including building envelope improvements to 8 school buildings and 13 Town facilities, insulating the roof deck at the Fleet Facility, demand HVAC controls, demand vending machine controls at the Police Department, and Town Hall lighting and occupancy sensors. These improvements would provide payback within one year. He noted other improvements in his memorandum, but explained that those improvements would cost more than the grant award.

Director O’Neill noted the slate roofs at Mary Cheney Library and the Weiss Building and questioned how adding insulation would be accomplished. A representative of Siemens

explained that insulation would be done from the inside in the attic space. The roof will stay intact.

Director Kissmann wondered if only the vending machines would be affected at the Police Department. There are many appliances within that building, and many other buildings, and he questioned whether all are needed. He understands the need for refrigerators to house evidence and for use in a break room, but questioned whether so many apartment size refrigerators are needed within one building. General Manager Shanley said that while that is a good question, it is more of a policy issue and outside the scope of this grant. If it is a Board concern, he can ask Departments to make an assessment.

Deputy Mayor Peak said he is impressed that the Town will be able to achieve some one-year paybacks. Long term the Town will achieve a savings of 114,000 per year.

Director Farina agreed that a savings of \$114,000 per year is significant. In addition, a local company will be put to work, which is a phenomenal boon to Manchester. He thanked Congress and the President for the economic stimulus measure.

Secretary Pelletier thanked Town staff for their efforts. They were working on energy savings long before the stimulus plan came about and because of that Manchester was well positioned when the stimulus money became available.

Mayor Spadaccini understands the application period is a tight timeframe and Manchester has been ahead of the curve on this project. He hopes that the \$114,000 annual savings will be used to roll into other energy savings initiatives. Mayor Spadaccini thanked Mr. Wolverton for his work.

13. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS.

There were no bid waiver requests at this time.

14. ACTION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING.

3B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:

5. **APPROPRIATED** - Increase to Medicaid Grant (FY 2008/09)..... \$140,425
to be financed by the Connecticut Department of Social Services for
Medicaid eligible Special Education and related services.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

7. **APPROPRIATED** - Increase in FY 2009 Appropriation to
Out of District Tuition..... \$65,165
to be financed by revenue received to date.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

3H.**APPROVED** - Approval of revisions to water and sewer rates, charges and fees.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

3I. **APPROVED** - Approval of an amendment to the Town of Manchester's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Pensions and Retirements, Section 70-20.F., to provide for a 2% increase in benefits for retirees. (A copy of the proposed amended ordinance may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during business hours.)

Director Tweedie moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

RECESS.

The Board of Directors took a brief recess at 9:04 p.m. and returned at 9:16 p.m.

Director Beckman moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

16. NEW BUSINESS.

B. **APPROVED** - Approval of a property tax abatement for Orford Village Housing Development Corporation for a 44 unit moderate income elderly housing project at 619 Hartford Road.

General Manager Shanley said that a tax abatement for this type of property is unusual. Everyone who sits on the Board of Directors is aware of the shortage of moderate priced housing for seniors in Manchester. This action will assist in the development of housing for a specific age and income where a shortage exists.

Director Tweedie said he is in support of the abatement because this is the kind of housing Manchester needs. Because of the age guidelines, the school system will not be affected and tax revenue will still be obtained through vehicle taxes.

Director Farina agreed with Director Tweedie; this is the right move for Manchester and its senior citizens.

Secretary Pelletier said when she first looked at the proposal she was concerned about the six year plan. In the future she would like to see more front loading instead of spreading the benefit over 6 years. The total amount for this project is \$78,000 which is not a large amount for a \$7 Million project.

Director Kissmann said he will support the abatement for this property. It is a private development so Manchester will be receiving taxes in the future.

Director Zingler asked if the Board needs to hold a public hearing to approve a tax abatement.

Town Attorney Naab said he does not have an immediate answer and will check into this.

General Manager Shanley suggested taking action on the item and then if a public hearing needs to be held we will do so.

Mayor Spadaccini acknowledged the shortage of moderately priced housing options for seniors and said this will provide more units for them. This tax abatement is about \$13,000 per year over a six year period and the development will fill a significant need.

Director Zingler moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

**ADOPTED - MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADDRESS ITEM 16.R,
SUSPENSION OF YEAR THREE OF PHASE-IN OF REVALUATION, AT THIS
TIME.**

Secretary Pelletier moved and Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

16R. **REMOVED** - Suspension of year three of phase-in of revaluation.

Mayor Spadaccini said this issue is a significant one and one of the most difficult decisions he has had to make while on the Board. After much thought and analysis, he thinks it is not in the best interest of the community as a whole to postpone phase-in. The Town is currently in the third year of a phase in of the 2006 revaluation that should have taken place in 2004. He said his initial reaction was to postpone the phase-in, but it is not as simple as he originally thought. The goal is to tax properties as fairly as possible, but unfairness will not be undone with a postponement. He noted Town staff's recommendation that phase-in not be postponed. It would significantly delay mailing of tax bills and cost approximately \$330,000 to the Town. Mr. Spadaccini said he is glad the Board had the opportunity to address this issue, but believes it is dangerous to tamper with revaluation. He does not support postponing phase-in.

Director Zingler said he does not support postponing phase-in. He thanked Town staff for the data provided but does not think it is advantageous to do this at this time. The financial liability of \$330,000 and the effect this action would have on mortgage companies and banks could be a

recipe for disaster. When the pros and cons are considered, he does not believe this is a good action for the Town of Manchester at this time.

John Rainaldi, Director of Assessment and Collection, explained that the next revaluation will take place in October of 2011 and be billed in July of 2012. He will be going out to bid for a revaluation contractor later this year and properties will be assessed beginning in 2010.

Director Zingler moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

C. **APPROVED** - FY 2008/09 End of Year Transfers:

1. Transfer in General Fund \$125,000 from Public Works to Interfund Transfers-Streetlights Acquisition and Maintenance Capital Projects Fund for future streetlight replacements in accordance with the streetlight acquisition plan.
2. Transfer in General Fund \$30,000 from General Government to Interfund Transfers-Small Business Development to fund the entrepreneurial institute program.

Director Farina moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

D. **APPROVED** - Approval of a resolution establishing a tax relief program for senior citizens performing volunteer services.

Director Beckman described a program in Colorado that provides a tax incentive to senior citizens for volunteering in the school system. This program will provide something similar for Manchester's senior citizens. Mr. Beckman reviewed the tax options currently available to seniors and explained that this will add a benefit to a limited number of individuals with limited income. He would like to make this a pilot program, limited to 30 people with a total cost of \$15,000. Seniors who meet State income criteria and volunteer at least 50 hours would qualify.

Director Zingler thinks helping seniors is an important endeavor but has some questions on the logistics of this proposal. He thinks it would benefit from a review by the Commission on Elderly Services and People with Disabilities. He wondered how the program would be administered, how people would be chosen (whether by lottery or first come first served).

Director Kissmann echoed Director Zingler's comments.

**FAILED - MOTION TO REFER RESOLUTION TO COMMISSION FOR
ELDERLY SERVICES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR REVIEW
AND FEEDBACK.**

Director Zingler moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

**Four Voted in Favor
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman**

Director Farina said he needed some clarification on the motion and asked if the intention is that the volunteers work only in the schools. He verified that the cost will change from \$30,000 to \$15,000.

Mayor Spadaccini said the motion was moved with the change to \$15,000 and termed as a pilot program, which means it will get evaluated after the first year.

ADOPTED - MOTION TO AMEND SECTION "E" AS FOLLOWS:

"The Board of Directors shall review the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program after one year and evaluate the pilot program."

Director Farina moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

**Five Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Four Voted in Opposition
Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman**

Deputy Mayor Peak said he is very pleased and excited to support this resolution. The volunteer efforts that some of the seniors will provide will far exceed the value of the work they will do. He is excited to see the possibility of seniors involved in the new youth initiatives or volunteering at the VITA site. He mentioned that this program is not without precedent; there is a tax credit available to the Eighth Utilities District Firefighters. Mr. Peak said he is fine with getting feedback from committees, but noted that this is a pilot program. This program has been tested in three other towns in Connecticut and Mr. Beckman worked hard for quite some time on this initiative. In fact, he worked on it before he became a member of the Board of Directors.

Director Zingler asked what line item the \$15,000 will come from. Mr. Beckman will discuss this with the General Manager and get back to Mr. Zingler.

FAILED – MOTION TO TABLE.

Director Zingler moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

**Four Voted in Favor
Zingler, O’Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman**

Director Farina said he thought tabling was a fair option since there is an open question of how to fund this program. He is surprised to see this as an action item and not an item for discussion. He said he is still unclear about the specific motion.

Mayor Spadaccini said he understands this will be adopted as a pilot program available to 30 people for a total benefit of \$15,000. Where seniors may volunteer is not specified in the resolution; that is up to the discretion of the General Manager.

Director Farina said the timing on this proposal is odd. It comes right after the budget is passed and nobody knows where the money will come from. He does not think volunteers need a monetary incentive to volunteer. Mr. Farina would like to include oversight of the Board of Directors on how people will be picked for this program.

FAILED – MOTION TO ADD THE WORDING “TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.” TO THE END OF SECTION “D.”

Deputy Mayor Peak said he is not clear on what harm would come from people volunteering and he has confidence in the General Manager’s abilities to develop the details of this program.

Director Zingler will support the amendment. The Board of Directors is the fiduciary of the Town of Manchester and as such needs to act in a fiscally responsible manner. He is not comfortable voting for this resolution without knowing where the funds would come from.

General Manager Shanley explained that because it is a tax credit, it would reduce the tax bill of a volunteer by \$500 and would reflect a reduction in revenue. He indicated that this is not a staff initiative.

Director Tweedie said he has complete faith in Town staff and the General Manager. There is room in a \$160 Million budget to make up for \$15,000 in lost revenue.

Secretary Pelletier recommended Town staff look first at the \$50,000 safety net fund.

Director Farina moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

**Four Voted in Favor
Zingler, O’Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman**

Mayor Spadaccini said he appreciates the work that Director Beckman has done on this initiative and is sorry to hear the disparaging remarks made during public comment. This will be a pilot program limited to 30 people, with a total cost to the Town of \$15,000. This program is a win/win for the Town and senior citizens. After a year, the program can be discontinued or expanded if beneficial.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.

RESOLUTION – SENIOR VOLUNTEER TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Be it resolved that in order to promote the goals of scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the Town of Manchester by drawing on the skills, knowledge and experience of its senior citizens, the Board of Directors hereby establishes a pilot Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program for senior citizens who choose to give of their time, talent and energy by volunteering to provide services to such entities, as follows:

- A. Qualifying senior citizens who volunteer to provide services to qualifying scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the Town of Manchester shall be eligible for a tax credit on their real property tax bills in accordance with the provisions hereof. In order to qualify for the benefits of the senior citizens' volunteer tax relief program, taxpayers must be age 65 or older, own real property in the Town of Manchester, must occupy the property as a principal residence and must have an annual gross income not more than the maximum amounts promulgated annually by the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with C.G.S. section 12-170aa(b)(2). Participating senior citizens may earn a tax credit of \$500 by performing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service in a fiscal year to qualified non-profit entities.
- B. The program shall apply to volunteer work performed in fiscal year 2009-2010 and after, in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution and the guidelines and policies referred to in paragraph D. The tax credit shall be applied to the tax bill due July 1 following the fiscal year in which the work is performed.
- C. The tax credits earned by the participants in the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program shall not exceed \$15,000 in a fiscal year.
- D. The General Manager shall develop guidelines and policies to administer the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program, including guidelines for qualifications for participating seniors and participating nonprofit entities, and for timing and form of applications.
- E. The Board of Directors shall review and evaluate the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program after one year.

Director Beckman moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

**Seven Voted in Favor
Zingler and Kissmann Abstained**

- F. **TABLED** - Appointment of a member (R) to the Cheney Hall Commission, with a term expiring November 2011, to fill the vacancy left by John Cunnane.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

**Eight Voted in Favor
(Beckman out of the room.)**

General Manager Shanley stated that the Town Attorney was able to research the need for a public hearing for tax abatement (Item 16.B) and found that no public hearing is required; only a vote by the Board of Directors along with a written agreement.

- H. **APPOINTMENT** - Appointment of a member to the Arts Commission, with a term expiring November 2009, to fill the vacancy left by Jessica Andrews – Carolyn Maas, 70 Dennison Ridge.

Director Zingler moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

**Eight Voted in Favor
(Beckman out of the room.)**

- I. Discussion: Public Works bond referendum.

General Manager Shanley described the timeline involved with the bond referendum. He referred to a list prepared by the Director of Public Works which includes a number of issues for consideration by the Board.

Mark Carlino, Director of Public Works, explained that he prepared a very complete list for the Board's consideration. His intention was to identify items discussed over the last couple of years.

Deputy Mayor Peak thinks the priorities should be road rehabilitation and sidewalks. He said he was glad to see the Broad Street streetscape improvements included on the list and thinks it would be a good idea to get feedback from the Redevelopment Agency before making any decisions about Broad Street. He is open to talking about the splash pad, but would like feedback from Recreation on that item.

General Manager Shanley explained that there needs to be some discussion about artificial turf. If there is a desire to install it within the next few years, the engineering portion needs to be addressed soon.

Director O'Neill asked if all of the tennis courts are in need of repair or if some need it more than others.

Scott Sprague, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained the repair program that has been in effect for the past 15 to 20 years. Cracksealing was done every 3 years or so, but it has gotten to the point that it needs to be done every year. There are tennis courts on East Center Street, at Charter Oak Park, and at Robertson Park. There are basketball courts at Robertson and Charter Oak Parks. The cracks are getting bigger and bigger and the courts will need to be reconstructed to avoid shutting some down.

Director O'Neill asked if some could be done this year and some next year, or if there would be a cost benefit to doing all in one year.

Mr. Carlino said there would be some efficiencies derived from doing all courts in one year. He explained that a number of hard surfaces need reconstruction.

Director O'Neill asked for an explanation of the road and sidewalk recommendations.

Mr. Carlino said the list has been broken down and classified. The Board can see how an investment in a particular road would change the rating of the road. He is trying to get away from addressing the worst first.

Director Farina said he doesn't see Spruce Street on the sidewalk list and those sidewalks look pretty bad.

Mr. Carlino said those sidewalks were replaced in the 1990s and he is aware that a number of slabs need to be replaced.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO GO BEYOND ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

**Six Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Pelletier, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Three Voted in Opposition
Peak, Tweedie, Beckman**

Mr. Carlino said that particular attention needs to be paid to neighborhood streets, but unfortunately there is more need than money. There are 767 named streets in Town and 520 lane miles. In the past two years 76 streets have been paved. No one bond referendum will be able to address all of the needs.

General Manager Shanley said that because of the sidewalk plan and process used, year after year sidewalks have consistently been addressed. He believes that Manchester needs to start using the same process for the roads.

Director Farina asked for further explanation on the traffic calming measures mentioned.

Mr. Carlino explained that there are a number of tools used to slow traffic and that is the goal for Main Street. One idea is an archway and another is providing vertical items to slow traffic, such as gentle curves or narrowing of lanes.

Mayor Spadaccini noted the \$1 Million figure for sidewalks and commented that it seems low. Mr. Carlino said that was done to recognize the need for road improvements. Mayor Spadaccini recalls following a sidewalk priority system. There have been exceptions because some sidewalks were in such a state of disrepair that it was becoming a quality of life issue. He said he would like to consider the Green Manor project as well as the Diane/Judith/Francis area.

Director Tweedie noted the controversy surrounding artificial turf and would like to get different viewpoints before the Board considers this item further. Mr. Sprague indicated that the State DEP is conducting a study on artificial turf.

Director Tweedie asked Mr. Sprague to describe a splash pad to him. Mr. Sprague said a splash pad is a large flat area made of colored pavement. There are irrigation heads covered by cartoon characters. General Manager Shanley added that it is really a miniature water park designed for children through teens. The idea is to provide water fun without the cost liability of pools. Much less supervision is required. Mr. Tweedie said it would be helpful to have pictures or a video to demonstrate a splash pad.

Secretary Pelletier asked how many splash pads the \$865,000 would cover. Mr. Sprague said the estimate provided is to replace the Verplanck pool with a splash pad. That would require demolishing the pool and bath house, building a splash pad and a bath house, and the installation of a filter system. Ms. Pelletier asked if Recreation had considered Globe Hollow for a splash pad since there is a brand new bath facility. Mr. Sprague said he could investigate Globe Hollow.

L. Authorization to submit energy block grant application (see Item 12A).

ADOPTED – MOTION TO AUTHORIZE TOWN STAFF TO GO FORWARD WITH WORK RECOMMENDED IN MEMORANDUM TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FROM BRIAN T. WOLVERTON, DATED JUNE 9, 2009, REGARDING EECBG GRANT & SIEMENS PHASE ONE ENERGY AUDIT.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

M. **TABLED** - Discussion: Consumer protection clinic.

Director Beckman moved and Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

N. **TABLED** - Discussion: Town-wide tag sale.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

O. **TABLED** - Resolution directing staff to develop a concept plan for creation of virtual small business office.

Mayor Spadaccini moved and Director Beckman

Five Voted in Favor

Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

Four Voted in Opposition

Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina

P. Discussion: Main Street entrance to Center Springs Park.

Director Farina mentioned an area near the Main Street stair case that collects a lot of garbage and has a lot of poison ivy. It is one of the entrances to the park and he would like to see something done with it. Mr. Farina is requesting that the Town spray the poison ivy so that volunteers can get into the area and clean it up. He wondered if the Town could come up with \$500 for plantings to beautify this area.

Director O'Neill mentioned a Silver Mulberry tree that had to be cut down from this area.

Mr. Carlino said that because the area is very steep, he would like to make sure it is planted with the proper materials to stabilize it. Funding was set aside to create a back parking lot and walking behind the Lincoln Center and this is the better area to enter the Park.

General Manager Shanley said there is a lot of poison ivy in that area and wondered if we could cut it back 4 or 5 feet. He questioned whether herbicides could be used in this area since the pond is somewhat close.

Mr. Carlino would have to check if herbicides could be used at this location. Unfortunately, nothing can be done about the grade in this area but he can recommend some proper plantings.

Secretary Pelletier mentioned the tree planting program that is funded through donations and wondered if the Silver Mulberry could be replaced through this program.

17. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL CONCERN.

Director O'Neill would like to hear a report at the next meeting regarding the weekend session at the Senior Center. They seem to have come up with some good plans and actions. One suggestion is the have a senior representative on the Board of Directors, similar to the student representative on the Board of Education. A senior representative would keep the Board informed of activities and issues at the Senior Center.

Director Farina said that the clapboard on the west side of the Recreation Department building is starting to come off. General Manager Shanley is aware of the problem and is working on it.

Director Farina has noticed that some streets lights in Manchester are very nice and others are made out of sheet metal and wondered why the difference. General Manager Shanley will report on that next month.

Director Tweedie asked for reports on the YSB building, the Spruce Street Firehouse, and 444 Center Street.

Deputy Mayor Peak commented on the interest from the seniors to report to the Board of Directors and suggested the Senior Advisory Committee send a representative to discuss this further. He suggested a youth representative may be an option as well. Mr. Peak recently attended a workshop presented by Capital Workforce Partners with a lot of good ideas. There will be some changes to job centers and counseling and training will be steered toward skilled training. Mr. Peak wondered if Capital Workforce Partners should be invited to the upcoming Economic Forum.

Director Zingler asked for an update on the Mary Cheney Library architect investigation. Mr. Shanley said the architect has not been selected yet, although we are in receipt of proposals.

Director Zingler noted Mr. Shanley's request for preferences on a summer schedule.

Mayor Spadaccini would like to see two meetings for July at least. There is a lot on the Board's plate and July will be a busy agenda. If any Board member has vacation plans, please forward them to their party leader.

Secretary Pelletier prefers a two meeting agenda since the last couple times there was only one meeting it went very late. She said she is working on revamping the agenda order and solicited suggestions from fellow Board members. She noted that the Board should also review the Rules of Procedure.

18. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the July 7, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Director Beckman moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Adjourned: 11:50 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors